

Remarks

Amendments to Claim 5

Claim 5 is amended to improve the claim for examination, and not to distinguish from any cited prior art. Entry of the amendment is requested.

Election Requirement

The examiner requires election of a single species for examination:

Species I - mechanically polished surface (claim 7)

Species II - chemically/electrochemically treated surface (claim 8)

Species III - anodized surface (claims 10-12)

Claims 5, 6 and 9 are deemed generic.

Applicant elects Species I, claim 7 with traverse. Claims 5, 6 and 9 are generic claims. Upon allowance of the generic independent claim 5, consideration of all species claims is requested.

Traverse of Election Requirement

The examiner asserts that the three species lack unity of invention because they are not so linked to form a single general inventive concept.

Claim 5 relates to a towel dryer having an aluminum body. It would be understood by those of ordinary skill in the towel dryer art that the aluminum body would not necessarily consist of

The claimed invention is not polished or highly reflective aluminum. The claimed invention is a towel dryer of improved thermal efficiency having an aluminum body having a highly reflective surface to transfer heat to a towel. Neither Love, showing polished aluminum tubing, or Sukimito et al. teaching aluminum stock having excellent surface smoothness, teach or suggest that such material would confer any efficiency advantage over a conventional towel dryer having a chromed aluminum body. Furthermore, the applicant's specification, as well as Sukimito et al., clearly shows that obtaining such a highly reflective surface is not achieved by merely specifying "aluminum" on a bill of material.

The prior art includes a towel dryer having a chromed aluminum body. No prior art shows a towel dryer having the features recited in the claims, including the claims of Species I, II, or III, to improve the thermal efficiency of the dryer. The inventive concept is to increase the thermal efficiency of a towel dryer by having an aluminum body having a highly reflective surface that contacts the towel for heat transfer. Each of the species defines a unique or novel way in the towel dryer art of forming the highly reflective surface recited in claim 5. Thus each of the species exhibits novelty or inventiveness in the towel dryer art for the common inventive feature recited in claim 5, and thereby shares unity of invention.

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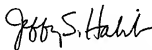
For the reasons stated above, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the election requirement.

Conclusion

The application is now in condition for allowance. If questions remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve same.

Respectfully submitted,

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